

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique Reference Number	124263
Inspection date	18 October 2007
Inspector	Gillian Cubitt
Type of inspection	Childcare
Type of care	Childminding

ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality

Good: this aspect of the provision is strong

Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound

Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are good. The registered person meets the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

The childminder was registered in 1994. She lives with her husband and two teenage daughters in a house in Whyteleafe, Surrey. The whole ground floor of the childminder's house is used for childminding and there is a fully enclosed garden for outside play.

The childminder is registered to care for a maximum of five children at any one time and is currently minding three children under eight on a part time basis. The childminder takes children to, and collects from, schools. She also attends various parent/toddler groups in the area.

The childminder supports children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. She is qualified with a National Vocational Qualification in Childcare level 3.

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

Helping children to be healthy

The provision is good.

Children are cared for in a clean and hygienic environment where they are very well protected from infection. The childminder is careful to ensure that all surfaces are clean and that she

washes her hands regularly. Children observe and copy good practice in hygienic daily routines especially after going to the lavatory; using individual towels to dry their hands. An effective policy regarding the exclusion of sick children ensures that the spread of infection is minimised. Children's care is consistent when they are unwell or injured. The childminder's qualification in first aid ensures children's health is well supported in the event of sickness or an accident. Records regarding accidents and medication are maintained in line with requirements, although the layout of the book does not consider children's confidentiality.

Children benefit because the childminder provides them with healthy and nutritious home cooked meals. They have plenty of fluids as the childminder encourages them to drink regularly; they have their own cups or beakers and access these easily in the kitchen. Children enjoy a plain biscuit for a mid-morning snack, however, they have a lack of awareness of foods that are good for them. Children have many opportunities to engage in physical play, developing their fitness and skills. They play in the garden using the paddling pool in the summer and other outdoor activities and wheeled toys. Outings are a firm favourite, especially during school holidays, where they regularly visit activity centres and play schemes as well as enjoy the fresh air in the fields of Beddington Park.

Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe

The provision is good.

Children are safe and secure in the childminder's care. They enjoy the facilities of a comfortable home where they have plenty of space to move around freely. They choose from a very good range of appropriate toys and resources which are checked regularly to ensure they are clean and undamaged. The childminder has a good understanding of all safety issues and regularly risk assesses her premises. She effectively promotes children's safety by using, for example, cupboard locks and keeping hazardous materials out of reach. Furthermore, the childminder has installed a carbon monoxide detector and smoke alarms. The accessible fire blanket, plus the clear displayed evacuation procedures, all ensure children's safety in the event of an emergency.

Children's security when going on outings is paramount. Children's understanding of their own safety is reinforced as they proudly wear their polka dot bright yellow tabards when going out which ensures they are constantly visible. Also, the childminder's telephone number is clearly displayed on each tabard. These and her clear procedures, in the event of a child being lost, all contribute to children's wellbeing.

Children's safety is secure because the childminder has a very good understanding of child protection. Her recent attendance at Local Safeguarding Children Board courses equips her with the latest guidelines and procedures on how to protect children. These are also written and shared with parents and carers, detailing her responsibilities regarding children's welfare.

Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do

The provision is good.

Children enjoy a very good variety of activities which are appropriate for their ages and promote their development in all areas. Children independently choose freely from a good range of toys, books, games and puzzles, which are carefully selected to stimulate and interest them. Babies enjoy plenty of sensory play, using different materials, and respond particularly well to the variety of musical toys available for them. The childminder has completed training for the Birth

to three matters framework and uses this information to ensure that the youngest children have a good assortment of play experiences.

Older children concentrate well, as they prepare meals in the play kitchen, making soup and vegetables. They play with interactive toys such as 'Learning and Musical World' where they learn letters and numbers. Children's social skills are promoted during their visits to toddler groups or when they meet with other childminders and their minded children. Children enjoy walks, visiting parks, play schemes and outings to the Science Museum.

Children make good progress because the childminder talks and plays with them, helping to develop a range of physical skills, understanding and language. She encourages them to talk about their experiences and she uses questions effectively to develop their understanding. For example, she invites children to think about letters and shapes as they play with their interactive toys. Children enjoy playing in the 'ball pond' whilst they learn colours and develop their counting skills.

Helping children make a positive contribution

The provision is good.

Children's individual needs and interests are given a high priority, as the childminder plans activities and resources for the day. She knows the children very well and offers them outings or indoor activities, which match their interests. For example, she plans trips to play schemes in the summer and outings to museums. She ensures that her information about babies' routines is current; and she works with parents' wishes, while adapting to meet the needs of the child on any particular day. Children learn about cultural and individual differences as they use resources which show positive images of diversity. The childminder is also aware of cultural festivals which she explores with the children, thus reinforcing their understanding through practical activities. Children with particular needs or disabilities are fully included and well supported. This is because of the childminder's experience and commitment to working with parents and other professionals for the benefit of the children.

Children behave very well as they respond to the childminder's calm and positive approach. They enjoy praise and the very warm relationships with the childminder. They learn to manage their own behaviour as she explains to them why they should treat others with respect and how to do so. The childminder's 'house rules' are incorporated into daily routines which are clear to children. This enables them to relax and play in an environment which is safe and happy.

Children benefit from the good relationships which the childminder develops with their parents. Parents appreciate the good quality care and the flexibility offered by the childminder in meeting their child's needs. Information is displayed as well as daily discussions with parents to ensure children's continuity of care. Written notes on babies' daily routines also keep parents fully informed.

Organisation

The organisation is good.

Children are cared for by a competent, qualified and experienced childminder who continues to update her knowledge and skills by attending relevant training courses. All adults in the household are fully checked and vetted which ensures children's safety.

Children play in a well-organised, clean and safe environment, where space and resources are used thoughtfully to meet their needs. They enjoy plenty of individual attention and the childminder has a good understanding of the developmental needs of children of different ages. Children's care and welfare are suitably underpinned by the required documentation, which is shared with parents, although some aspects lack confidentiality. The childminder meets the needs of the range of children for whom she provides.

Improvements since the last inspection

Since the last inspection, the childminder has improved children's welfare by obtaining parental consent to seek emergency medical advice. This is now completed before the children start so that appropriate emergency action can be taken if required.

Complaints since the last inspection

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

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WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?

The quality and standards of the care

To improve the quality and standards of care further the registered person should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- review layout of accident and medication records to ensure confidentiality
- further develop children's awareness of nutrition by introducing discussions about healthy foods that are good for them

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education (HMI ref no 2599)* which is available from Ofsted's website: www.ofsted.gov.uk